

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 04497 240108Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 HA-05
A-01 /085 W

-----094591 240116Z /62

O R 240027Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 157
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 4497

PANAMA FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, PINT, PE
SUBJECT: GENERAL STRIKE SITREP: SECOND DAY

REF: LIMA 4454

1. SUMMARY: MIDNIGHT TO 5:00 A.M. CURFEW IMPOSED LATE MAY 22
AND CHANGED TO 10:00 P.M.-5:00 A.M. ON MAY 23. GOP PROVIDING
HEAVY TV AND NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF STRIKE VIOLENCE AND BRIEFED
PRESS THAT FOREIGN AGITATORS ARE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE. STRIKE
IN LIMA MAY 23 HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AGAIN IN SHUTTING DOWN BUSINESS
BUT DEGREE OF VIOLENCE IN POOR SECTIONS APPARENTLY LESS
THAN YESTERDAY AS POLICE AND ARMY OUT IN FORCE. WE EXPECT
MOST EMPLOYEES TO TRY TO GET TO WORK TOMORROW. SOME INCIDENTS
OF VIOLENCE REPORTED IN THE PROVINCES BUT MOST CITIES, INCLUDING
CUZCO AND AREQUIPA, ARE GRADUALLY RETURNING TO NORMAL.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIMA 04497 240108Z

NO REPORTS YET ON ADDITIONAL CASUALTIES TODAY. INTERNATIONAL
AND DOMESTIC FLIGHTS ARE OPERATING BUT AT BELOW NORMAL
SERVICE. END SUMMARY.

2. MAY 22 AT APPROXIMATELY 1900 HOURS, THE GOP DECLARED A
MIDNIGHT TO 5:00 A.M. CURFEW IN THE LIMA METROPOLITAN
AREA IN RESPONSE TO YESTERDAY'S VIOLENCE, LOOTING AND

DISRUPTION OF TRAFFIC (REFTEL). (TODAY THE CURFEW WAS EXTENDED AND WILL START AT 10:00 P.M.) OFFICIALLY-INSPIRED ACCOUNTS OF YESTERDAY'S VIOLENCE IN LIMA, PUBLISHED IN MAY 23 GOP-CONTROLLED PRESS, ACKNOWLEDGE THREE DEATHS AND TWELVE WOUNDED, BRINGING TOTAL OFFICIAL DEATH COUNT TO FIFTEEN. "FOREIGN EXTREMISTS" ARE BLAMED FOR THE DISTURBANCES IN LIMA MAY 22 IN WHICH FOUR BUSES WERE BURNED, THE SOUTHERN ACCESS TO THE PANAMERICAN HIGHWAY BLOCKED AND AN ANGRY MOB TRIED TO SACK THE PERUVIAN ARMY'S CENTRAL PX IN CHORILLOS. LIMA'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WAS OPERATING TODAY ALTHOUGH WITH SOME DELAYS AND PROBLEMS (UNDERSECRETARY NEWSON'S AVIANCA FLIGHT TO B.A. OVERFLEW LIMA). MANY DOMESTIC FLIGHTS WERE BACK ON MORE OR LESS REGULAR SCHEDULE, INCLUDING THOSE TO AND FROM CUZCO.

3. STRIKE TUESDAY MORNING IN LIMA'S INDUSTRIAL ZONE APPEARS EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE THAN YESTERDAY, AND MOST BUSINESSES, SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS DOWNTOWN ARE STILL CLOSED. BETTER CONTROL AND A MORE VISIBLE TROOP PRESENCE LIMITED SERIOUS INCIDENTS TO SLUM AREAS AND RECURRING ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK THREE MAJOR ACCESS ROUTES INTO LIMA ON OUTSKIRTS OF CITY. THE LACK OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, ESPECIALLY THE PRIVATELY-OPERATED MICROBUSES, HAS MADE IT PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR WORKERS IN OUTLYING AREAS TO GET TO WORK. THE GOP ANNOUNCED THAT PRIVATELY-OWNED VEHICLES COULD OPERATE AS TAXIS TODAY WITHOUT PREVIOUS AUTHORIZATION AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIMA 04497 240108Z

LOCAL TV HAS CARRIED SPOT ANNOUNCEMENTS ASSURING PEOPLE THAT THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL AND URGING THEM TO RETURN TO WORK.

4. THE MOSCOW-LINE CGTP IS ADVISING ITS AFFILIATES TO RETURN TO WORK MAY 24, BUT ALSO INFORMING UNIONS THAT IF DETAINED LABOR LEADERS (SECTY GENERAL OF CGTP CASTILLO, BANKWORKERS CUNIGA AND A FEW OTHERS) ARE NOT RELEASED, CGTP PLANS THEN TO CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE OF INDEFINITE DURATION. BANK WORKERS REPORTEDLY ARE ARGUING ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT TO WORK TOMORROW WITH THEIR FEDERATION LEADER ZUNIGA STILL IN JAIL. APRA RELATED CTP HAS ISSUED COMMUNIQUE URGING ITS MEMBERS TO RETURN TO THE JOBS MAY 24 AND IS FOLLOWING UP WITH PRIVATE URGINGS OF THIS POSITION. APRISTA DOCKWORKERS ARE REPORTEDLY STARTING BACK TO WORK TONIGHT IN CALLAO ON THE 7:30 P.M. SHIFT.

5. OUTSIDE OF LIMA THERE SEEM TO BE FEW SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FROM YESTERDAY BUT ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE CONTINUE TO BE REPORTED. AREQUIPA REMAINS TENSE AFTER A WEEK OF CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE BUT GRADUALLY IS RETURNING TO NORMAL. THE COMMANDER OF THE III MILITARY REGION,

GEN. GUILLERMO SCHROTH CARLIN, BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH LOCAL LABOR LEADERS YESTERDAY, WITH STILL UNKNOWN RESULTS. MANY GAS STATIONS AND STORES THERE ARE OPEN AND MORE PRIVATE VEHICLES ARE ON THE STREET. AREQUIPA HOUSEWIVES CONTINUE TO PROTEST INCREASED FOOD PRICES, BANGING ON EMPTY POTS AND PANS, SMALL GROUPS GATHER TO HECKLE TROOPS, AND THERE HAS BEEN SOME FIRING INTO THE AIR. SO FAR, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO RENEWAL OF VIOLENCE AND A CURFEW HAS NOT BEEN IMPOSED. CUZCO IS VIRTUALLY BACK TO NORMAL, WITH BUSES RUNNING AND BUSINESSES OPEN. THE TRAINS TO MACHU PICCHU ARE BEING RUN BY THE NAVY AND RAIL SERVICE TO PUNO WILL RESUME TOMORROW. IN THE MOUNTAIN TOWN OF CHOSICA NEAR LIMA A BOMB THREAT CAUSED SUSPENSION OF TELEPHONE SERVICE. CHIMBOTE CONTINUES TO BE VIRTUALLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LIMA 04497 240108Z

PARALYZED, WITH A HEAVY MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE STREETS. SOME THIRTY PRISONERS, INCLUDING TWO UDP CANDIDATES TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN SENT FROM CHIMBOTE TO LIMA. TRUJILLO HAS BEEN SEALED OFF BY THE ARMY, ALLOWING NO MOVEMENT IN OR OUT OF THE CITY, AND PIURA IS REPORTED TENSE BUT QUIET. TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF THAT CITY, E.G. TO CHICLAYO AND TUMBES, IS BLOCKED BY OBSTACLES AND ROCK-THROWING.

6. LOCAL PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF STRIKE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY ACCURATE AND DETAILED IN REPORTING ON VIOLENCE AND OTHER STRIKE-RELATED ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH FIGURES GIVEN ON THE NUMBER OF DEAD AND WOUNDED ARE APPARENTLY UNDERSTATED. THE GOP CONTROLLED DAILY EL COMERCIO TODAY CARRIED A PARTICULARLY LONG AND DETAILED ROUNDUP OF THE INJURIES AND DAMAGES THAT OCCURRED IN VARIOUS CITIES AS A RESULT OF THE CIVIL DISTURBANCES. LOCAL TELEVISION STATIONS, WHILE RUNNING GOP-SPONSORED MESSAGES CALLING FOR CALM, PRESENTED DETAILED COVERAGE OF THE DAY'S EVENTS INCLUDING FILMED SCENES OF STREET RIOTING AND THE MAY 22 BURING OF A BRANCH OF BANCO DE LA NACION. GENERAL ESTRADO BRACAMONTE, NEW HEAD OF PERU'S NATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (SINADI) TOLD THE FOREIGN PRESS TODAY THAT "PROFESSIONAL AGITATORS" INCLUDING "FOREIGNERS" WERE INSTIGATORS OF VIOLENCE IN THE OTHERWISE PEACEFUL AREAS OF CHEPEN, HUANUCO AND HUANCABELICA. HOWEVER, HE DECLINED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR NATIONALITY OR TO STATE THAT ANY "FOREIGNERS" HAD BEEN DETAINED.

SHLAUDEMAM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, GENERAL STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIMA04497
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780218-0010
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780524/aaaaauhr.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2a5fc397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LIMA 4454
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2589643
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL STRIKE SITREP: SECOND DAY
TAGS: EFIN, PINT, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2a5fc397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014